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University of Montana prepared for Spring Football

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Sports State



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U. of Montana Prepares
For Spring Football

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MISSOULA -- With spring an occasional visitor now to the Missoula area, University of Montana football coach Jack Swarthout's thoughts are turning to spring football, which begins on April 3 at UM.

The NCAA allows its member schools to prepare for the fall football season with 20 practice days in the spring within a 36-day period. Swarthout plans to conclude his spring practice session with the traditional intra-squad game May 6 at Dornblaser Stadium.

"It looks like we have a pretty good nucleus for a team," Swarthout says, "but we'll have to pick up some people for the offensive line and the defensive secondary."

It will be about two weeks before Swarthout and his staff will have a roster put together, because they are still hearing from people daily who want to try out.

So far only two junior college students will be transferring to UM for spring ball. They are Tim Babish and Dean Evans, all-league athletes from Citrus Community College in Azusa, Calif. Babish is a quarterback and Evans is a defensive back.

"Babish has good credentials," Swarthout says. "He's 5-11, 190 lbs. and has been timed at 4.7 in the 40 yard dash. He can run and he can throw, but he'll have to beat out Jay Baumberger and Rock Svennungson."

Baumberger was relief man for Gary Berding last season and Svennungson was quarterback for the freshman team.

Swarthout has two redshirts from last year, Jerry Cooley, a center, and Tom Bodwell, a tight end. Bodwell has apparently recovered well enough from illness to play. In addition, there are about a dozen freshmen from last year and may be some more junior college students in the fall.

Swarthout lost 16 seniors from last year's 47-member squad, which finished 6-5 for the season and 3-2 in conference games.